

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-17 were examined by the Office, and all claims are rejected. With this response no claims are amended, added or cancelled. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections in light of the following remarks. The independent claims are 1, 7, 13 and 15.

Response to Arguments

On pages 5 and 6 of the Office Action, the Office responds to applicant's previous arguments by stating that Krishnamurthi teaches a Service Request to the mobile switching center, and the mobile switching center analyzes the Service Request and allows it or not. See Krishnamurthi paragraph [0018]. Although Krishnamurthi teaches a service restriction, i.e. allowing service request or not, this service restriction is related to a record of subscriber data and not a record of addresses. Paragraph [0036] of Krishnamurthi states, "a list of service options that a particular subscriber unit is authorized to use" is contained in a record of a mobile switching center. This teaching is limited to the case where a particular service is allowed for a particular subscriber unit or not. This teaching is not the same as that claimed in the present application, because in the present application the allowance of a message communication is decided in a switching center based on a certain address. In the present application some addresses are allowed for communication, while others may not be. Therefore, the advantage of the present invention is that although the subscription details corresponding to a particular terminal may allow access to a particular service, there is provided capability to nevertheless restriction a message service on the basis of certain addresses identified in a record within the switching center. These addresses are addresses with which a message communication is not allowed, as recited in claim 1.

In contrast to claim 1, in Krishnamurthi a particular subscriber unit may be allowed to use a service option, i.e. short message service (SMS), or not according to a list entry containing the service options that the particular subscriber unit is authorized to use. Therefore, in Krishnamurthi a user of the subscriber unit would be allowed to use the entire short message service, regardless of the addresses to which the user intends to send the short messages. In the present application, as recited in claim 1, a user is generally allowed to use the short message

service, but there may be certain addresses that are forbidden for use according to a corresponding entry in a record kept within a mobile switching center. Krishnamurthi is directed to determining whether a subscriber unit is authorized to use a service option or not, and in contrast the present application is directed to determining whether a subscriber may use a particular feature of a service, i.e. sending a short message to a particular address. Therefore, applicant respectfully disagrees with the Office that Krishnamurthi discloses or suggests the claims of the present application.

Claim Rejections Under § 102

In section 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-9 and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Krishnamurthi et al. (U.S. Appl. Publ. No. 2001/0023186). As submitted previously with the prior response, applicant respectfully submits Krishnamurthi does not disclose or suggest independent claim 1, because Krishnamurthi fails to disclose or suggest all of the limitations recited in claim 1. Krishnamurthi at least fails to disclose or suggest keeping a record containing information about certain addresses with which a message communication is not allowed in a switching center, and preventing in the switching center transmission of a message if the message is related to an unallowed address, as recited in claim 1.

Krishnamurthi discloses a mobile switching center (MSC) 102 that includes a memory 200 for storing information relating to subscriber units serviced by the system 100. The Subscriber Service Records stored in the memory 200 are not the equivalent of the record recited in claim 1, because they do not contain information about certain addresses with which communication is not allowed. Instead, the memory 200 contains information related to a list of service options that a particular subscriber is authorized to use. See Krishnamurthi paragraph [0036]. “Service options” refer to the service capabilities of the system, and may be applications such as voice, data, facsimile, or SMS. See Krishnamurthi paragraph [0036]. Therefore, the memory 200 includes information regarding services that a particular system can provide, and which subscribers have access to which services. However, the memory 200 does not contain information about certain addresses with which communication is not allowed, as recited in claim 1.

Since Krishnamurthi does not disclose or suggest keeping the record as recited in claim 1, Krishnamurthi also necessarily fails to disclose or suggest preventing the transmission of a message if said message is related to an unallowed address according to analysis of information in the record. Instead, Krishnamurthi discusses that a base station 1108 seeks authorization from the MSC 102 to set up a call with a subscriber unit SU1112, because the MSC 102 has the information needed for the call set up. See Krishnamurthi paragraph [0040]. Based on the information, i.e. Subscribed Services Record, for the subscriber unit SU1112, a message processor 202 at the MSC 102 will determine whether the subscriber unit is authorized to use the service option that the base station is asking for. See Krishnamurthi paragraph [0041]. Therefore, Krishnamurthi merely describes that a mobile switching center checks subscription details for a subscriber to determine whether the subscriber has permission to access a particular service. In contrast, claim 1 recites that transmission of a message is prevented when the message is related to an unallowed address. The unallowed address recited in claim 1 is not the equivalent of the subscription details discussed by Krishnamurthi, because the subscription details relate to authorization to use particular services, while the unallowed address is an address to which message communication is not allowed. Therefore, in claim 1, as discussed above, a user may have authorization to use a particular service, but not be able to send messages to a particular address using that service, i.e. short message service. In contrast, Krishnamurthi only discloses determining whether or not a subscriber unit is authorized to use a service option, and does not disclose or suggest determining what the authorization details for that service option may be. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Krishnamurthi.

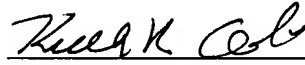
Independent claims 7, 11 and 15 contain limitations similar to those recited in claim 1, and therefore for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1, are not disclosed or suggested by Krishnamurthi.

Claims 2-6, 8-9, 12-14 and 16-17 all ultimately depend from an independent claim, and are believed to be patentable over Krishnamurthi at least in view of their dependencies.

Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge deposit account 23-0442 for any fee deficiency required to submit this response.

Respectfully submitted,



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